J J School of Arts in Mumbai

347. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Art Schools in the country such as J J School of Arts in Mumbai are properly funded;

(b) whether they have adequate teaching staff; and

(c) if not, what steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) J J School of Arts in Mumbai is not funded by the Ministry of Culture. There is no specific scheme for funding Art Schools.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Coronation of Guru Granth Sahib

348. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for celebration of 300th Years of Coronation of Guru Granth Sahib which is being celebrated in Nanded, Maharashtra this year;

(b) the details of the scheme approved by various Departments of Government and the budget allocated for these;

(c) the details of the progress of schemes; and

(d) whether Government has also given grants for other places connected with Guru Gobind Singh in India?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Government of India is commemorating Tercentenary of Guru-ta-Gaddi of Shri Guru Granth Sahib. A National Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Hon'ble Home Minister and under Co-chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra to approve policies, plans, programmes and supervise and guide the commemoration of Guru-ta-Gaddi celebrations.

At Nanded, a number of programmes and projects have been undertaken which include infrastructure development of Gurudwara area, development of city infrastructure and completion of a museum. The priority projects are proposed to be completed in year 2008. While the focus of the commemoration is in Nanded, some projects and programmes are also proposed to be undertaken in other important places associated with Guru Gobind Singhji like development of Anandpur Sahib and development of Talwandi Sabo.

Buddhist link between Orissa and Sri Lanka

349. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to link Buddhist culture and Buddhist links between Orissa and Sri Lanka with the help of Mahabodhi Society of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to find a common platform for all Buddhist traditions in imparting the teaching of Buddha for global peace and applying the Buddhist value of love, compassion and interdependence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) and (d) No such specific proposal is under consideration.

Nomination as World Heritage site

350. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the list of heritage sites being proposed for nomination as World Heritage site during 2008 and 2009, category-wise;

(b) whether the Majuli Island is being considered for renomination under cultural landscape category of World Heritage site during the coming nomination;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Majuli Island, Assam and Kalka-Shimla Railway were considered by UNESCO for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2008, based on nomination dossiers sent earlier, under the "cultural landscape", and 'cultural heritage' categories respectively. While Kalka-Shimla Railway has been inscribed, a decision on Majuli Island was deferred.

Nominations to be made in 2009 are under consideration.

(b) to (d) While deferring a decision on Majuli Island, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO recommended the following actions:-

(i) Assemble a complete inventory of the 31 surviving Sattras on the island as a preliminary to considering which Sattras might have the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value and be nominated as the property;

(ii) Allow on ICOMOS evaluation mission to visit the property to consider the extent and scope of the Sattras;

(iii) Undertake an appraisal of the overall river basin in which Majuli lies and the potential impact of upstream development, deforestation and the building of dams, in order to ascertain whether managed retreat is the only realistic approach to the flooding and erosion processes.